

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SWF-02 EUR-25 H-03

IO-14 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /185 W

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R 191120Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2571

UNCLAS BANGKOK 6415

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJ: THAI SUGAR EXPORT TO KHMER REPUBLIC

REF : A. PHNOM PENH 4948

B. BANGKOK 5177

1. EMBASSY ECON/CML COUNSELLOR APRIL 18 MADE OFFICIAL CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY MINISTRY INDUSTRY. DIRECTOR SUGAR INSTITUTE ALSO PRESENT. REFTTEL A WAS DRAWN UPON IN ATTEMPT SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON THAI AGRICULTURE LTD PARTNERSHIP (TALP) AS AGENT. U.S. FUNDING OF SUGAR PURCHASES ALSO STRESSED PLUS BESIEGED FORTRESS STANCE OF PHNOM PENH NEAR SENSITIVE THAI BORDER.

2. UNDER SECRETARY POLITELY BUT FORCEFULLY REAFFIRMED BASIC RTG POSITION PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED BY DIRECTOR SUGAR INSTITUTE PER REF B. EXPRESSED REGRET OVER GKR MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT RTG COMMITMENT TO SELL WHITE SUGAR, BUT REITERATED THAT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE WAS FOR EXPORT OF SUGAR THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, WHICH IS THAI SUGAR CORPORATION (TSC), AND NOT THROUGH TALP AS AN EXPORTER. SAID GKR MAY STILL IMPORT WHITE

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SUGAR BUT DUE CONFUSION OVER TALP STATUS NOW NECESSARY

TO REAPPLY FOR GOVT-TO-GOVT AGREEMENT FOR SUGAR PURCHASE.

3. UNDER SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT RTG CONTROLS SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS BY THAI SUGAR MILLS BUT DOES NOT ITSELF MAKE EXPORT CONTRACTS. RTG THROUGH AGREEMENT OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE WILL APPROVE EXPORT OF SUGAR BY SUGAR MILLS TO BORDERING COUNTRIES BASED ON GOVT-TO-GOVT AGREEMENT. ONLY APPROVED EXPORT AGENT IS TSC, WHICH HAS CONTRACT FOR THAT PURPOSE WITH ALL THAI SUGAR MILLS. THE GKR OR SONEXIM DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ANY OTHER DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY, INCLUDING TALP, MAY THEN PROCURE THE SUGAR FROM TSC FOR IMPORT INTO CAMBODIA. TSC WILL SPECIFY PRICE, DELIVERY AND OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE. PRICE WILL BE BASED ON THE LONDON QUOTATIONS. ACCORDING TO UNDER SECRETARY, THIS PRICE HAS DECLINED ABOUT 25 PERCENT IN RECENT MONTHS BUT MAY GO UP AGAIN.

4. EMBASSY REGRETS BUT SEES NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO PROCEDURE OUTLINED BY UNDER SECRETARY IF SUGAR IS TO BE OBTAINED IN THAILAND.
MASTERS

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